



Thomas A. Christopher  
President & Chief Executive Officer

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September 19, 2001

Mr. Lake H. Barrett  
Acting Director  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Thank you for including Framatome ANP, Inc. (Advanced Nuclear Power) in your request-for-public comments on the DOE's *Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE)*. We value our 12-year participation in OCRWM's program for dispositioning the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste--first as part of the TRW-led M&O team and currently as a subcontractor to BSC for waste-package design.

While we are proud of our long-term association and leadership position with the Project, we feel it would be inappropriate to comment on the technical veracity of the science and engineering work completed to date. We have been, and continue to be, part of the competent and dedicated cadre of professionals who are focused on providing the best technical product with the highest degree of safety. Simply put, we are confident in the extensive scientific evaluations and sound engineering that has been the hallmark of this Project. Further, as a corporate member of the Nuclear Energy Institute, we concur with their assessment of the PSSE and endorse their position of encouraging the DOE to recommend Yucca Mountain as the nation's repository for high-level waste.

In light of the recent power shortages on the West Coast and the horrific terrorist acts of September 11, the need for a reliable source of clean energy has become even more apparent...and urgent. Currently operating plants already safely supply a significant portion of our electricity, ~20%. And new plants, those that could be built within the next few years and those intended for deployment in 2030 and beyond (GEN IV), will play an even larger role. Yet, the credibility of the industry today and the successful application of commercial nuclear power in the future hinge on a single issue -- the final safe disposition of the spent fuel.

As your letter so aptly states, "The Department has spent 20 years and over \$6.7 billion studying various means..." for the final disposition of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in the U.S. In general, the scientific community worldwide has adopted permanent geological disposal as the preferred option. For the U.S., this approach secures all our nation's nuclear waste in a single place designed to control the release of radioactivity over tens of thousands of

years even under the most adverse conditions. Geologic disposal allows this nuclear material to be packaged and placed in a facility that deters theft, diversion, and terrorist acts. Managing nuclear waste in this way also eliminates the need for long-term human oversight and fulfills our responsibility to future generations.

Now is the time to make Yucca Mountain our nation's permanent repository for nuclear waste--the policy has been established, the site studied, the scientific basis and technology demonstrated, and the monies collected. As stated earlier, Framatome ANP has confidence in the science and engineering work that supports the PSSE. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Project and supporting the effort to design the waste packages and license the repository should it be recommended to President Bush.

If I, on behalf of Framatome ANP, Inc., can help facilitate the public discussion of Yucca Mountain, please feel free to contact me at (434) 832-2519.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Christopher

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